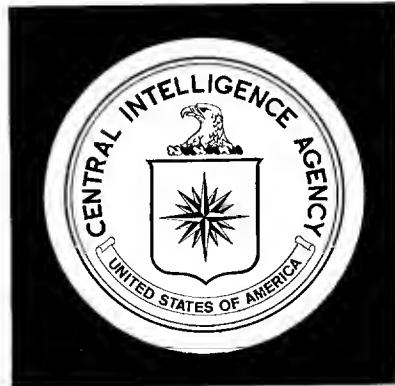


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WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY: West German State Secretary Egon Bahr is hopeful that a general treaty with East Germany can be concluded before the West German parliamentary elections, even though the two sides remain far apart on certain major issues.

In briefing Allied ambassadors on 19 September, Bahr stated that considerable progress had been made during his latest talks with East German State Secretary Michael Kohl.

several fundamental issues remain to be settled, including satisfaction of the West German demand that the treaty contain reference to a common German nationhood. The two sides also still differ on the precise nature of the diplomatic missions that will be exchanged. The East Germans continue to reject the West German attempt to place a time limit on the treaty's validity, a device Bonn hopes would indicate that a peace treaty for Germany is still outstanding.

Despite the failure to resolve these differences, Bahr said he is optimistic because Kohl was willing to consider seriously the proposals for practical improvements in relations that he tabled on 13-14 September.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Negotiations are still bogged down over delineation of the Kashmir boundary, and there has been no progress toward withdrawal of troops from occupied territory.

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Mrs. Gandhi may be tying the withdrawal issue to Pakistan's recognition of Bangladesh. Bhutto, however, is not yet ready to take this step and appears resigned to protracted negotiations over Kashmir as well as indefinite postponement of troop withdrawal from occupied territory.

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